

U.S. COAST GUARD **RESCUE**21

SAVING LIVES IN THE 21st CENTURY

Captain Dan Abel, Project Manager

Rescue 21 is an advanced command, control, and communications system that will improve the ability of the Coast Guard to assist mariners in distress and save lives. Harnessing global positioning and cutting-edge communications technology, *Rescue 21* enables the Coast Guard to perform all its missions with greater agility and efficiency. This means quicker response to calls from mariners in distress, greater coordination with Department of Homeland Security, and increased coordination with federal, state, and local agencies. General Dynamics C4 Systems serving as the system integration contractor, has worked diligently with the Coast Guard to design, produce, and deploy Rescue 21. When completed, this \$730 million major systems acquisition will completely overhaul the Coast Guard's existing Very High Frequency – Frequency Modulated (VHF-FM) communications system, which was installed and deployed during the 1970's. *Rescue 21* will cover more than 95,000 miles of coastline, navigable rivers and waterways in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico. By replacing the legacy outdated technology with a fully integrated system, *Rescue 21* will help bridge interoperability gaps with other law enforcement agencies and first responders. *Rescue 21* provides the Coast Guard with the tools it needs to protect the nation's coasts and rescue mariners at sea.

Capabilities

- incorporates direction-finding equipment to improve locating mariners in distress
- improves interoperability amongst federal, state and local agencies
- enhances clarity of distress calls
- allows simultaneous channel monitoring
- upgrades playback and recording feature of distress calls
- reduces coverage gaps for coastal communications and along navigable rivers and waterways
- supports Digital Selective Calling for registered users
- portable towers for restoration of communications during emergencies or natural disasters



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